

## Samples of Student Work Created During 2001-2002 Pierce County Residencies

In January 2002, artist in residence Laura Gamache collaborated with 6<sup>th</sup> grade science, social studies, and language arts teachers at Tacoma's Jason Lee Middle School. Gamache explains that, "Like objects are built from atoms, like the Mayans and Aztecs built their temples of stone blocks, so poets build their poems of words." One example of the breakthroughs accomplished during this residency was the use of poetry in the science classroom. Reading an English translation of Pablo Neruda's *Ode to Fire* as inspiration, Gamache guided the students through the process of writing to create odes to gold, mercury, and other elements.

### It Comes by Night

**The object of the coming night comes battered through the sky.  
Your face sullen as your eyes strain to stare.  
The sun just now a rusted, shallow glare in the distance.  
The cool air is speckled and infested with the buzz and humming of insects.  
Then the object shifts its weight dramatically down towards the ground.  
Suddenly everything is still and the silence is not peaceful.  
You hear a vulnerable animal cry. It's dead.  
And the victorious bat flies back into the coming night.  
You go into your home with the grim reminder of death.  
It comes by night.  
Night, night, night.**

**- Joy Manley  
Jason Lee Middle School**

Joy Manley's poem, *It Comes by Night*, and Annalee Davidson's poem, *Solitude*, are the results of Jason Lee Middle School's efforts to bring a greater depth to poetry studies. Teachers and students learned the process of writing from pre-writing to publication in a course that site coordinator Sylvia Wood claimed, "successfully demystified poetry reading and writing."

### Solitude

**His brow furrowed, he operates alone.  
He can either drive you up the wall, or he can be your closest friend.  
In his cottage by the ocean, he is nearly always deep in thought.  
He isn't caught up in the hustle and bustle of everyday life.  
On the outside, he is just like you and me.  
But if you look deeper, he is in his own world.  
Daydreaming is his full-time hobby.  
Calm and tranquil, it would take an act of God to upset him.  
I get along quite well with Solitude.**

**- Annalee Davidson  
Jason Lee Middle School**

The Essential Academic Learning Requirements in art, reading, writing, and communications, were addressed during this two-week residency. Teachers were given the tools needed to modify successfully their lesson plans to tie-in other curricular areas, and students had gained a deeper understanding of what poetry is and the creative process.

Another Pierce County residency performed this past year was the result of an Artists In Residence Grant

to the Pierce County Arts Commission (PCAC). By utilizing funding from WSAC and the county, the PCAC was able to coordinate 18 residencies in schools throughout the county. One occurred at Sunset Primary in University Place and involved artist Becky Frehse.

Frehse worked with 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students in color theory, abstraction technique, and standard visual arts vocabulary during her two weeks in the school. Site coordinators Faye Kurano and Becky Owens stated that during this residency, "students and teachers saw the visual arts as an important part of [the] general curriculum" and that the "follow-up field trip to the TAM [Tacoma Art Museum] allowed a first time experience with works of art that they [the students] were introduced to."

One of the pieces created during this residency was an oil pastel on paper by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student Sienna. She titled her piece "Girl Sick In Bed" and utilized it to not only show her understanding of abstraction, but also the concepts of value, composition, monochromatic color, and geometric shape.

